20th March 1950]

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether the munsif-magistrates are under the control and supervision of the district magistrate of the district or of the district judge or of both? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" In respect of the magisterial side, they are under the district magistrate and for civil work, they are under the district judge and the sessions judge happens to be the appellate authority over the district magistrate."

DR. SYED TAJUDDIN :—" Will the Government have the necessary number of district munsifs required for this purpose? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Anticipating this, Sir, we are recruiting 81 munsifs and the Public Services Commission has already advertized for it."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Are the Government aware of Article 50 of the Constitution which says that the State shall take steps to separate the judiciary from the executive in the public services of the State? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" We have anticipated the constitution by introducing this reform long before the Constitution was passed."

Seasonal conditions prevailing in the State.

* 18 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to make a statement on the seasonal conditions prevailing in the State, more especially in the southern parts of the State, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to alleviate the distress caused by the failure of the monsoon?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON (on behalf of the Hon. Minister for Land Revenue) :—" Statement [a] is laid on the table of the House."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Sir, there has been failure of monsoons successively for the last three years; are the Government satisfied that the measures taken by them will meet the needs of the situation? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" The measures taken by us may not certainly restore rain which we have lost but the consequences of the failure, we are trying to meet by the measures that we have taken."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, what amount of relief by way of provision of work or gratuitous relief has been provided in the taluks or in the areas which have been continuously suffering for want of rains all these three years? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" The work done in each district has been given in the statement but for other details, I want notice."

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[a] Printed as Appendix on pages 503–507 infra.

[20th March 1950

Dr. SYED TAJUDDIN :—" Will the Government see its way to find out the ways and means of undoing the bad effects of the failure of monsoons on the lines taken in western countries where scientific methods are being explored? "

The Hon. Sri K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Certainly in such a short time we cannot find out scientific methods for bringing down artificial rains. We shall watch the experiments that are being done. As far as is humanly possible in the matter of digging more wells, diverting water from rivers, tapping underground water and such like things, we are doing our best and we are also trying to give work to agricultural labourers who have been thrown out of work due to failure of rains."

Janab K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM :—" With regard to the relief that is being given to the weavers in Melappalayam, may I ask if relief is to be given to all the families in distress or only to particular sections through any particular agency to which they may or may not have access? "

The Hon. Sri K. MADHAVA MENON :—" The difficulties of the weavers are not exactly the direct consequence of the failure of monsoons."

Janab K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM :—" I put this supplementary question, Sir, because specific mention is made in the statement of the relief that is proposed to be given to the families in distress."

The Hon. Sri K. MADHAVA MENON :—" My Hon. Colleague, the Minister for Industries reminds me that it is famine relief and is given at the rate of Rs. 2-8-0 to Rs. 3 per family per week."

Janab K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM :—" That is mentioned in the report. But I wish to ask, whether the relief is being given to all the families or only to those who are members of co-operative societies? "

The Hon. Sri K. MADHAVA MENON :—" I do not exactly know to which of the families relief is distributed. The principle has been laid down that it must be Rs. 2-8-0 to Rs. 3 per family per week. That is a famine relief and you must leave it to the officer concerned to distribute it as well as he can."

Sri M. NARAYANA MENON :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware that there had been a drought this year in Malabar? "

The Hon. Sri K. MADHAVA MENON :—" There has been some little drought in Malabar for the second crop but in the case of the other districts, there is no second crop at all and there has been a complete drought."

Sri M. NARAYANA MENON :—" Even for the second crop, are the Government aware that certain parts of Malabar have been intensely affected and there has been no crop in some villages? "

The Hon. Sri K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Our reports do no warrant such a sweeping state of affairs as my hon.

20th March 1950]

Friend has stated. There has been drought there for the second crop in some places. Regarding conditions prevailing there and on the question of remission of revenue and other reliefs, it is a different question and it is being separately examined."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Seeing that for three years successively there has been a failure of monsoons, have the Government investigated and found out what is the cause of the failure of monsoons? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" I do not think that it has been the unfortunate condition for this part of the country alone. The failure of rains is due to several reasons. Some people attribute it to the disafforestation of forests, some others say that it is due to the monsoon winds swooping away from the country and some very good people think that it is due to God's anger on us."

DR. SYED TAJUDDIN :—" Will the Government think of restoring disafforestation and take afforestation."

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" That is the policy of Government. It is to afforest the country as much as possible."

SRI MOTHEY NARAYANA RAO :—" Do the Government propose to try the experiment of reciting hymns to please the rain God? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" I am not sure, Sir, whether we as a Government could take it up. It will be a very good thing if some of our hon. Members do it."

JANAB K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM :—" May I know, Sir, whether in view of the distress being widespread in Melappalayam, the Government will see to it that the relief is given to all the families in distress irrespective of the fact whether they are members of the co-operative societies or not? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" The idea is famine relief and it will be so worked that relief will be given to as many as possible as deserve it."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" In view of the fact that drought seems to be a common feature in this Presidency, in order to enable this House to know and discuss what measures are being taken in each area, will the Government allot a day as early as possible, as this is a very serious matter? The reply given is lengthy and I am afraid it is scrappy and indefinite and not also up-to-date. So far as the other House is concerned, they had the Famine Demand in which they could have taken the opportunity of discussing this question but this House had no such opportunity and being a matter of life and death to the people of this Province, might I suggest that a day be allotted to this House for discussing the question? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" I do not think it will be possible to devote a separate day for discussion.

[20th March 1950

But in the Supplementary Demand that is going to be placed before this House to-day on which the general discussion will take place on the 24th, the hon. Gentleman may concentrate his attention on the question of famine relief and we, on our part shall get ourselves prepared to give such answers as are necessary and on the Finance Bill which is coming before the House on another day also we can concentrate on this question. Whatever information which the Government can give has already been given on the floor of the other House. I do not mean to say that the opportunity given to the other House bars a similar one regarding this House but we have got sufficient opportunity to discuss it either in connexion with the Supplementary Demands or the Finance Bill which will be coming here."

2-45 p.m. Dr. V. K. JOHN :—" Have Government investigated that their policy of disaforestation have been responsible for the failure of the monsoon and whether they will revise their policy after investigation? "

The Hon. Sri K. MADHAVA MENON :—" I am afraid we are straying from the point. The Government's policy is not at all one of deforestation; it is one of afforestation. Unfortunately a good portion of the forests is private forest, where it has been exploited without any scientific basis; and so we have brought forward a legislation to stop that deforestation on unscientific basis."

Dr. V. K. JOHN :—" Will the Government investigate what the cause is for the failure of the monsoon? "

The Hon. Sri K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Even scientists disagree as to the cause of that. Some attribute it to deforestation; while some others do not attribute it to that, as there are rains in areas where there are no forests at all. The Government have not conducted any research on this question."

Dr. SYED TAJUDDIN :—" It may be that the policy of Government is one of afforestation. May I know what area every year is afforested and deforested? "

The Hon. Sri K. MADHAVA MENON :—" From the point of view of the Government there are more reserve forest areas planted every year than deforested. In Malabar district alone, over 15,000 acres of good trees like teak are under plantation. In reserve forests afforestation is going on. But undue deforestation is going on in many private forests."

Dr. SYED TAJUDDIN :—" Since the rate of charge for electric energy supplied to agriculturists is very high, will the Government see that it is supplied at reduced rates so that it may be availed of by all agriculturists? "

The Hon. Sri K. MADHAVA MENON :—" I do not think this is the result of the failure of the monsoon."

20th March 1950]

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The tariff of rates for agricultural requirements is not at all high."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Do the Government consider that the bombing of Japan during war has something to do with the failure of the monsoon? Have the Government investigated it?" (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" We as a Cabinet have never sat as a research body to investigate into it."

Dispute between the motor employees and motor bus owners in Eluru.

* 19 *Q.*—SRI MOTHEY NARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a dispute between the motor employees and motor bus owners in Eluru was referred to arbitration;

(*b*) if so, when was an award given in the matter;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the terms of the said award, if any, have not been implemented; and

(*d*) if so, what action has been taken by the Government for the proper implementation of the award?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON (on behalf of the Hon. Minister for Land Revenue) :—" (*a*) Disputes in six motor companies, viz., Sri Sitharamanjaneya Motor Service, Sri Venkateswara Motor Service, The Ellore Motor Transport, Ltd., Sri Krishna Balaji Motor Service, Sri Maruthi Motor Service and Sri Ramanjaneya Motor Service, West Godavari district, were referred for adjudication during 1946–47 under the Defence of India Rules.

" (*b*) No award was given in the matter, Sir, as the parties filed a memorandum of compromise before the Tribunal requesting it not to proceed with the enquiry in view of a Court of enquiry which was then constituted to enquire into the general working conditions of the Motor Transport Services in the State.

" (*c*) & (*d*) Does not arise, Sir."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" May I inquire whether in regard to the award by the general court of inquiry into the grievances of motor transport workers, the award has been implemented by all motor transport owners?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" The High Court said that a general inquiry for the whole Province is *ultra vires* because an inquiry like that for the whole Province is wrong. Then the Government passed the Bill in 1949. Even then, there are subsequent references to the validity of it in the judgments of the High Court."